SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Bristol and Plymouth Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of First Bristol and Plymouth Senatorial District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 3.4% (4,218) of these admissions reside in the First Bristol and Plymouth Senatorial District. 1.8% (74) of admissions from the First Bristol and Plymouth Senatorial District were under 17 years of age. Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services. In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from First Bristol and Plymouth Senatorial District reported the following characteristics:

- 71% were male and 29% were female.
- 68% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 87 were white non-Latino, 5% were black non-Latino, 5% were Latino, and 4% were other racial categories.
- 65% were never married, 12% were married, and 23% reported not to be married now.
- 40% had less than high school education, 44% completed high school, and 16% had more than high school education.
- 21% were employed.
- 17% homeless.
- 33% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a "primary drug" of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Bristol and Plymouth Senatorial District.

Table 1 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002										
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack					
District	32%	53%	4%	4%	2%					
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%					

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Use: FY 1995 – FY 2002										
First Bristol and Plymouth Senatorial District										
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU			
FY '95	3,264	2,521	1,353	1,092	174	1,795	1,204			
FY '96	2,795	2,123	1,131	860	198	1,459	1,113			
FY '97	3,356	2,436	1,197	1,003	247	1,588	1,313			
FY '98	4,210	2,852	1,388	1,153	246	2,238	1,799			
FY '99	4,521	3,062	1,632	1,543	387	2,547	2,053			
FY '00	4,510	2,972	1,457	1,495	567	2,610	2,171			
FY '01	4,158	2,520	1,242	1,219	432	2,375	1,983			
FY '02	4,218	2,462	1,094	1,264	476	2,522	2,105			

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the First Bristol and Plymouth Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

